

other interested persons. In addition to the newsletter, HOPE also announced the publication of the *Women of HOPE*, an education book featuring the biographies of historical Latina icons. The premiere limited edition features Queen Isabella of Spain, Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz, La Pola, Josefina Ortiz and Gabriela Mistral.

On Friday, March 13, 1998, members and leaders of our community will gather at HOPE's 7th Annual Women's History Month Symposium. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring HOPE Education and Leadership Fund for its contribution to the social, political and economic status of Latinas.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE-TIME COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF CLARENCE IWAO NISHIZU

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 1998

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Clarence Iwao Nishizu for his dedicated service to the Japanese American community and Orange County. Clarence grew up in Orange County where his family owned a farm and he is a graduate of Anaheim High School and Fullerton Jr. College. During World War II, all Americans of Japanese ancestry were interned as a result of Executive Order 9066. Clarence and his family were uprooted and interned at Heart Mountain, Wyoming. After the war, he and his family returned to Orange County and continued to farm with his two brothers. Due to his experience in the internment camps, Clarence continued to be an active citizen in Orange County, particularly within the Japanese American community in the areas of civil and human rights.

Clarence Nishizu was Co-founder of the Orange County Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens' League (JACL), the oldest Asian American civil rights organization. He later founded four other chapters of JACL throughout Southern California, including the SELANOCO chapter where he was past president.

In 1966, Clarence was the first Japanese American selected as the Foreman of the Orange County Grand Jury. In 1975, he received a special "Resolution of Appreciation Award" for his meritorious service from the Orange County Criminal Justice Council. Clarence was also active in the Redress campaign by testifying before the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. His efforts, along with many other Japanese Americans eventually led to the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 in Congress. In 1991, the major highlights of his life were published in the Honorable Stephen K. Tamura Orange County Japanese American Oral History Project, a publication that chronicles the history of Japanese Americans in Orange County.

Now, at the age of 86, Clarence Nishizu continues to actively participate on the board of the SELANOCO Chapter of JACL. He actively fundraises to promote SELANOCO's civic responsibility program, the Presidential

Classroom scholarships, which provide opportunities for high school students to go to Washington, D.C. for leadership training.

IN OPPOSITION TO H.R. 217

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 1998

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, last week I joined five of my colleagues in opposing HR 217, consolidation of McKinney Homeless Programs. While this legislation passed overwhelmingly, it has some clear ramifications for my district.

I support the block grant concept as well as the effort to provide local flexibility for homeless programs. However, this legislation institutes onerous matching requirements and caps on supportive services which would seriously jeopardize Portland, Oregon's existing network of services. HR 217 specifically provides funds for the construction, rehabilitation, and acquisition of permanent housing. While I realize these funds are needed in other communities, this allocation is troublesome for those communities, like Portland, where many of the necessary capital investments have already been made. In these communities, federal homeless funds are needed almost entirely for the maintenance of existing programs and facilities, not necessarily new construction. I am proud of the investment my community has made in permanent housing and would like to see flexibility in the block granting process which will allow us to maintain existing programs.

LARRY SEXTON RECOGNIZED AS A TOP NEW-CAR DEALER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 1998

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to congratulate Larry Sexton, a dedicated Missouri businessman, who has been named a finalist of the 1998 Time Magazine Quality Dealer Award (TMQDA).

Sexton, a native of Salem, Missouri, was selected as one of the top ten new-car dealers in the nation, from a field of more than 20,500 participants. Sponsored in association with Goodyear, and in cooperation with the National Association of Automobile Dealers, the TMQDA program recognizes outstanding new-car dealers for exceptional performance in their dealerships and distinguished community service. Finalist are selected by a panel of faculty members from the University of Michigan Graduate School of Business Administration.

Larry Sexton, a graduate of the University of Missouri, owns and operates Sellers-Sexton, Incorporated, one of South-Central Missouri's largest new-car dealers. In addition, Sexton is chairman of the Fort Leonard Wood Regional Commerce and Growth Association and vice president of the Fifth Regional Association of the United States Army. He also serves on the executive board of the Committee of Fifty and the Missouri Highway Corridor Coalition.

Mr. Speaker, Larry Sexton is an outstanding businessman and a good friend. His service to

his business and his community is to be commended. I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to Larry for being named one of the top-ten new-car dealers in the United States.

TRIBUTE TO THE HAMMOND HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 1998

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I rise today to congratulate the Hammond High School wrestling team on their outstanding accomplishments during the 1997-1998 season. Having previously captured County, Regional and State Dual Meet championships, as well as team titles in the Howard County and South Region Tournaments, on March 6-7 the Golden Bears completed a sweep of all six championships by winning the Class 1A/2A Maryland Public High Schools State Wrestling Tournament team title for the first time.

Led by a core of experienced junior and senior wrestlers, the Hammond High School team sought out the highest level of competition, wrestling against teams from throughout Maryland, as well as Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and as far away as California. Committed to both individual and team excellence, the Golden Bears achieved outstanding results in all weight classes. The team was undefeated in 18 dual meets and all 13 wrestlers finished in the top four places at the Howard County Tournament. Without a single returning County champion, this year's Hammond High team produced six County and two Regional champions. Two Hammond wrestlers, Scott Osborn and Matt Nelson, placed 2nd in the State, and one, Vaymond Dennis, finished the season as the 112 pound Maryland State Champion.

As noteworthy as the achievements of the team on the wrestling mat, Coach Bill Smith and his staff should be commended for their uncompromising attention to the personal development of these young men. From the first day of practice in November, team members were required to meet high standards—of academic performance and of personal behavior. I applaud Coach Smith, as an educator, for teaching lessons that will have value long into the future.

I offer my congratulations to Dr. Sylvia Patillo, Principal of Hammond High School, as well as to the parents and fans of the Golden Bear wrestling team. I am sure that they are proud, as I am, of the accomplishments of the student-athletes of the 1997-1998 team. I am pleased to note that the school's tradition of wrestling excellence now includes a Maryland State Tournament Championship title.

DISTRUST IN GOVERNMENT

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday,

March 11, 1998 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

DISTRUST IN GOVERNMENT

One of the major changes in American politics over the years has been the erosion of public trust in government. In the mid-1960s, three-quarters of Americans said they trusted the federal government to do the right thing most of the time. In recent years, that number has generally been closer to one-fourth to one-third. Public trust in state and local governments is not much higher, and we have seen similar declines in confidence in other countries around the world.

This devaluation of government and politics is clearly worrisome, and it makes it all the more difficult for the federal government to carry out its important responsibilities as we enter the 21st century. Thus increased attention has been given lately to the question of why Americans have declining confidence in the federal government. The reasons for the decline are several.

Declining trust generally: Part of the decline reflects a broader drop in confidence in authority and institutions generally, as many see declining respect for authority a feature of current culture. Trust in all institutions took a big hit from Vietnam and Watergate, and the sharpest drops in public confidence in government occurred during that time.

Changing economy: Americans have less confidence in government as the U.S. economy has changed—as workers feel the threat of globalization and technology and as little progress is made on income inequality and wage growth for middle-class workers. People feel high anxiety and a loss of control over their own lives. To them government seems less relevant and not particularly helpful with their difficult work transitions and their burdensome education, health care, and retirement costs.

Too much corruption: People are concerned about corruption and low ethical standards among government officials. They believe that many are dishonest and controlled by special interests. In a recent poll, only 18% of Americans thought their own representative has not traded votes for campaign contributions. People will often say it takes new Members of Congress only a few months to become corrupted by the system.

Poor leadership: A common theme is that public officials are just looking out for themselves, pursuing their own agendas and advancing their own personal power rather than providing leadership and representing constituents. Americans think that one of the best ways to improve public confidence in government is to find more responsive political leaders.

Too political: There is widespread belief that the political system has become too political. By a sizeable margin people feel that politics prevents government from serving the people well.

Messy process: The public doesn't approve of the slow, often contentious nature of the legislative process. Studies have shown that public confidence in legislatures generally goes down after the proceedings are opened up through television and other means, even for legislatures that had greatly improved their operations and performance compared to when they operated behind closed doors. Institutions that are the most public are often the least liked.

Government waste: Another major complaint, and one that I hear all the time, is that the federal government has become too big, too wasteful, too inefficient. In recent polls, 80% of Americans stated they believe that government is inefficient and wastes tax dollars. Often in public meetings constituents will tell me that fifty cents of every dollar going to Washington is wasted.

Too intrusive: Many people believe that government tries to do too much and interferes with their lives. They often tell me to "Get government off my back." Almost half of Americans perceive government as an obstacle rather than a helping hand to achieving the American dream.

Weak performance: Large numbers of Americans don't think government has much of an impact on their daily lives. Recently when people were asked to name two or three of the most important successes of the federal government over the past thirty years, 42% of Americans couldn't volunteer even one.

Media: The more cynical, more adversarial approach of the media today is often cited as one of the biggest factors in the dramatic drop in Americans' trust in government. Since the 1960s, newspaper and television coverage has become much more negative and more focused on conflict than substance. That clearly has taken a toll.

Some of these factors can't be easily changed, such as the negative tone of the media or the broad decline in confidence in all institutions. Yet there is still reason for hope. The good news is that many of the factors that can be controlled by political leaders can go a long way toward helping to restore confidence in government. Most notably, as Congress in recent years has taken the tough steps to reduce the deficit in order to boost the U.S. economy and has balanced the federal budget—a problem that has plagued policymakers for decades—public confidence in the institution has risen significantly.

There are many things that politicians can do to bolster trust in government. Among them: First, we need to streamline the operations of government—making it more responsive, accessible, and workable. Second, we need to tackle the big issues and deal with things that really concern people, such as improving education and shoring up the long-term outlook for Social Security and Medicare. Third, we need to correct public misperceptions about government, explaining better how it works and what it does. For example, Americans frequently complain about the large amount of money going for foreign aid, which they think is around 20% of the total federal budget and say should be closer to 10%, but is actually only 1% of the federal budget. Fourth, we need to improve the public's understanding of the impact of government on their lives every day. Support for the federal government improves considerably when people are informed about the government's role in improving health care for seniors, ensuring food safety, discovering medical cures, and creating the Internet.

Despite their often low confidence in government, large numbers of Americans still say they want to see an effective government that helps them and their family, and they believe this is an achievable goal. And they want more information about how Congress works and how it connects to their lives. So the opportunity for improving the way Americans look at their government is clearly there.

GUS AND FRANCES STAVROS—GIVING BACK TO THEIR COMMUNITY

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 1998

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, if any one knows that hard work leads to success it

is Gus Stavros, my dear friend and constituent from St. Petersburg, Florida.

The son of an immigrant from Crete, his success is grounded in a strong set of values which have guided him throughout his life, as a parent, a businessman, and generous philanthropist.

Among the shared beliefs of Gus and Frances Stavros is a commitment to improving educational opportunities for the children of Pinellas County, Florida. With a \$1 million gift in 1987, the couple spearheaded a county-wide effort to establish Enterprise Village, a state-of-the-art learning facility to teach fifth-graders about business and economics. Since its opening, more than 100,000 students have participated in programs at Enterprise Village. All fifth-graders in Pinellas County complete a business course that prepares them for spending a day at Enterprise Village, which is the key to their learning experience. There they have the opportunity to run one of a number of businesses such as a bank, drugstore, newspaper, fast-food establishment, hospital, or radio station. They are paid with special currency, with which they can open a checking account for the day, have lunch, and spend their money at businesses in the Village.

The experience has been such an unqualified success for students, parents, and teachers that the Stavros family recently announced a new campaign, spearheaded with another \$1 million gift, to establish Enterprise Village II to allow eighth-graders to have a hands-on experience in business and economics.

This is just one of many charitable endeavors to which Gus and Frances Stavros have given so much. They have given to local theaters, orchestras, museums, and colleges.

Mr. Speaker, Gus Stavros has lived the American Dream. He is the son of an immigrant, a decorated veteran of World War II, he is a proud father and husband, he is a successful businessman, and he and his wife have given back many times over to our community. And in just a few days, on March 20th, he and Frances will celebrate their golden 50th wedding anniversary.

Following my remarks, I will include for the benefit of my colleagues a story by Lennie Bennett from Sunday's St. Petersburg Times which tells the remarkable story of this very special, and most generous, couple—Gus and Frances Stavros.

Their story is one that I hope inspires others throughout our nation to lead by example and give back to their communities to make them a better place to live.

[From the St. Petersburg Times, Mar. 8, 1998]

COUPLE RELISH GIVING AWAY MILLIONS

(By Lennie Bennett)

ST. PETERSBURG.—Gus and Frances Stavros went out to lunch for a celebration the day they pledged \$1-million in matching funds to Enterprise Village II last month.

On the way home from Largo to their condominium in downtown St. Petersburg, they passed by a number of fine restaurants and private clubs.

Finally they found what they were looking for—hamburgers and french fries at Wendy's.

That lack of pretension is typical, friends and colleagues say of the couple, both 73, who made millions when he sold his company, Better Business Forms Inc., in 1984 and subsequently have given most of those millions away.

"I don't believe in saving it, and waiting to give it away after my demise," Stavros said